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Senate

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who has guided our lives and is the author and finisher of our faith, teach us to live for Your glory. Keep us from becoming intoxicated by the desire for success and protect us from the fear of failure that paralyzes noble striving. Lord, lead us through the valley of pride and across the gorges of pretension to the richness of Your transforming spirit of love. Today, guide the Members of our Nation's legislative branch with Your wisdom. Show them solutions to the problems that beset our land and empower them with the compassion that seeks first to honor You. We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, there is a little housekeeping, and then I will give my remarks.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 184

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 184) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provi-

sions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, House Republicans are struggling—struggling—to grasp a harsh reality about being in the majority. There is no good substitute for having a plan. You can't solve the Nation's biggest problems without a plan—a plan we can debate in Congress and which the American people can judge for themselves. This is especially true—especially true—when it comes to the debt ceiling.

Later this afternoon, President Biden will meet with Speaker MCCARTHY for their first one-on-one meeting of the year, and everyone is asking the same question of Speaker MCCARTHY: What is your plan? Where is your plan, Republicans? Where is your plan, Speaker MCCARTHY?

For days, Speaker MCCARTHY has heralded this sit-down as some kind of major win in his debt ceiling talks, but Speaker MCCARTHY is forgetting something obvious to everyone else: If you don't have a plan, you can't seriously pretend you are having any real negotiation.

Let me say that again because it is so crystal clear.

Speaker MCCARTHY, if you don't have a plan, you can't seriously pretend you are having any real negotiation.

Speaker MCCARTHY showing up at the White House without a plan is like sitting down at the table without cards in your hand.

And look, we know why the Speaker has struggled and is unable to produce a plan or why he is delaying it or avoiding it. He doesn't have the votes for one, in all likelihood. Some Senate Republicans want Social Security and Medicare cuts. Others want to cut the healthcare that Americans depend on

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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